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OH GOD. GOD, LOOK AT IT ALL...
I AM LOOKING, AGENT BALL, AND MY RETINAL IMPLANTS PROBABLY GIVE ME A CLEARER PICTURE THAN YOU'RE SEEING.
THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
ADMITTEDLY, I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY COLOR-VISION, BUT OTHERWISE THE DIGITAL IMAGING IS PERFECT.
ALL I SEE IS PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE THEY'RE DRUNK OR IN SEIZURE.
TH-THEN ALL THE OTHER STUFF, IT...IT ISN'T THERE? ALL THESE WEIRD BUILDINGS...
NO. NEW YORK'S BUILDINGS ARE NO WEIRDER THAN NORMAL.
THE PEOPLE THOUGH...THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
Y-YOU THINK THIS IS ALL ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS, TEMPORAL LOBE SEIZURES, LIKE YOU SAID WAS WRONG WITH KAREN?
IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
ABNORMAL ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS CAN CAUSE TEMPORAL LOBE SEIZURES, WHICH CAN CAUSE SO-CALLED RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES.
REMOVE THE EM DISTURBANCE AND THESE PEOPLE SHOULD RETURN TO NORMAL WITH LITTLE HARM DONE.
YEAH. YEAH, THAT MAKES SENSE. THAT'S GOOD! EXCEPT...I DUNNO...
I MEAN, THAT STUFF ABOUT ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND TEMPORAL LOBE SEIZURES CAUSING RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES?
WELL, I MEAN, WHAT IF, YOU KNOW...

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...WHAT IF IT'S THE OTHER WAY *ROUND?*

PERSONAL
TAPSYCHIC
Theatre
COPIES 5¢
EVERYTHING MUST GO!

WHAT? YOU MEAN WHAT IF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES CAUSE...? NO. NO, THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE.

OKAY. SO THIS IS ALL *ILLUSION.* THE WORLD ISN'T *REALLY* ENDING.

HM.

WELL, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

I MEAN, IN ONE SENSE, PEOPLE'S *PER-CEPTION* OF THE WORLD *IS* THE WORLD.

HOW COULD *ANY* HUMAN CULTURE SURVIVE IF THIS MADNESS BECAME *UNIVERSAL?*

NO, ILLUSION OR NOT, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT IT *LOOKS* LIKE. WE HAVE TO REMOVE *PROMETHEA,* AGENT BALL...

...BEFORE SOMEBODY REMOVES *NEW YORK.*

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OH, GOD. OH, THIS *LIGHT* IN EVERYTHING. THIS IS REALITY. THIS IS *IT.*

OH, GOD, BABY, I LOVE YOU...

ANYBODY HOME?

AH. IT'S YOU.
GOOD.
I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO TALK TO YOU.
TO ME? BUT...
WAIT A MINUTE. ARE THESE...?
THESE AREN'T MY HANDS. OR... OR ***ARE*** THEY?
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
LOOKING AT YOUR HANDS IS USEFUL, IN A DREAM.
DON'T WORRY. THIS IS JUST WHERE OUR STORIES END.
HERE BY THE GRANDMOTHER FIRESIDE.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? IT'S ALWAYS HERE. ALWAYS NOW.
THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING BUT THIS ROOM, THIS HEARTH.
NEVER ANYONE BUT ME...
...AND YOU.
OH.
SO...THE PERSON I AM, EVERYTHING THAT ***HAPPENED***...
NONE OF THAT WAS REAL?
ALL OF IT HAPPENS. ALL OF IT'S REAL.
AND IT'S ALL PART OF THE STORY YOU WANTED ME TO TELL YOU.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU WERE A BABY, SILLY CHEMICALS THAT HAD ONLY JUST STRUNG THEMSELVES TOGETHER.
YOU WANTED A STORY, OF WHAT MIGHT ***HAPPEN***.
WHAT YOU'D ***BECOME***.
"AND I SANG YOU OF CELLS, LITTLE PILLOWS OF BRINE."
"I TOLD YOU OF TAIL, OF FLAGELLUM AND SPINE..."
HA HA.
REMEMBER?
"AND ALL OF THE BIRDS, AND THE FISH IN THE SEA..."
"...AND ALL OF THE WOMEN AND MEN YOU MIGHT BE."
WAIT A MINUTE...
I THOUGHT I WAS SOMEBODY READING A COMIC BOOK, OR...
NO. THAT I WAS SOMEBODY ***IN*** THE BOOK.
W-WASN'T I THAT PAINTED DOLL THING?
YOU'RE EVERYBODY. THAT'S HOW IT ***IS*** WITH STORIES.
THEY'RE ALWAYS REALLY ABOUT ***YOU***, AREN'T THEY?
AND THEY ALWAYS HAVE A BEGINNING...
...AND THERE'S ALWAYS AN ENDING.
FOR ALL THE STORIES.
FOR EVERY-ONE.

AAA! MISTRESS, THE LIGHT'S CONSUMING ME! I--I THINK I'M DYING...

DON'T WORRY, CLARICE MY DARLING! I'M WITH YOU! I WON'T LET YOU GO!

THE GLOW'S EXPANDING, SWALLOWING EVERYTHING.

MISS RAY, YOU SHOULD TRY TO ESCAPE TO YOUR FUTURE-EARTH.

B-BUT...

I HAVE TO CONFRONT THIS THING.

OH JESUS. STRONG'S GONE, AND THAT STUFF'S RACING TOWARDS US!

HEY, KID! THROW THE REVERSE SWITCH ON THAT DOOMSDAY DEVICE, LIKE YOU SAID!

UM...ACTUALLY, SLIGHT TECHNICAL PROBLEM THERE.

IT'S THE END WE MUST ATTEND! THE DOOM THAT LEAVES NO ROOM!

THE FINISH WE CAN'T DIMINISH!

DOOMSDAY!

REVERSE NOW

OH NO! MR. BRANNIGAN'S BEEN LIQUIDATED!

(OR VAPORIZED, OR SOMETHING...)

THE LIGHT'S TAKEN THEM ALL. COME ON, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

I'M CONFUSED ABOUT ALL THIS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MONTH THIS IS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THOSE SCIENCE-FOLKS IN NEW YORK?

WE LOST TOUCH WITH NEW YORK FIVE MINUTES AGO, MR. PRESIDENT, SIR.

GREAT LORD. HOW FAR IS THIS ENGULFATION GOING TO *SPREAD?*

DON'T WE HAVE SCIENCE-PEOPLE SAFEGUARDING *WASHINGTON?*

UM...PROBABLY BEST ASSUME *NOT,* MR. PRESIDENT.

IN FACT YOU SHOULD BOARD AIR FORCE ONE PRETTY MUCH AROUND NOW, SIR.

WE HAVE TWO AGENTS IN NEW YORK TRYING TO TAKE THIS SCIENCE-WOMAN OUT.

I'M SURE THEY BOTH UNDER-STAND WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY *CAN'T.*

I--I CAN'T DO THIS, I CAN'T **SEE.** EVERYTHING'S BURNING LIKE **PHOSPHORUS.**

WE **HAVE** TO. WE'RE ALMOST THERE, AT THE **HEART** OF IT ALL.

OH GOD. I DON'T HAVE A MAN. I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY WHO I LOVE.

LOOK, IT'S... IT'S JUST THE **EM** FIELD, SCREWING WITH YOUR FEELINGS.

THAT UP **AHEAD**...I CAN SEE A PILLAR OF BLINDING LIGHT. IS THAT A **BUILDING?**

Y-YES. IT'S WHERE ALL THIS IS COMING FROM, ISN'T IT?

SHE'S IN THERE.

A-AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS... JESUS, I'M SO LONELY...ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GO IN AND **FIND** HER.

TH-THESE ARE STEPS, RIGHT AHEAD OF YOU. THEY'RE...

WAIT A MINUTE. ISN'T THAT...?

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

TH-THERE'S A COUPLE MAKING OUT OVER THERE, AND THE WOMAN...NO. IT CAN'T BE.

THE WOMAN LOOKS LIKE MAYOR **CASCADE.** A-AND THE GUY I SORT OF RECOGNIZE...

COME ON. WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE. THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST HALLUCINATIONS.

LEAVE THEM TO IT.

OH **GOD.**

OH **YEAH.** DO ME NOW, BABY, RIGHT HERE...

B-but sister, you are a woman, as I am.!-It is against NATURE...

SOMEBODY SHUT THE NUN **UP.** I'M GETTIN' ON **BOTH** THESE BITCHES!

MMMM. SOUNDS LIKE MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES MEANS MULTIPLE **ORGASMS.**

JEEZ, I NEVER FELT THIS HORNY, OR THIS **POWERFUL...**

WRRRUFF! ROWF! RURR-RRRRR...

Oh, Heavens! Someone has let the RUFUS personality in! B-But he's a German SHEPHERD!

OH, WOW. YOU'RE CHANGING. THAT IS SO **FREAKY.**

C'MON, BABY. LET'S MAKE SURE THAT THE WORLD ENDS WITH A GANG-BANG, NOT A GANG-**WHIMPER.**

ARRRUFF!

Rufus, get down! get DOWN, I say!

OHH! OH, SONNY, BABY, WE'RE **BOTH** CHANGING! OH, WE'RE GETTING BIG. WE'RE GETTING **SO** BIG...

OH, YEAH. OH, **WORK** IT BABY. OH, YOU DIRTY SLUT, YOU DIRTY **WHORE...**

£$%& ME! £$%& ME, YOU FILTH, YOU **ANIMAL!**

BEDAD! I'M A BEAST WITH TWO BACKS, SO I AM!

£$%& ME UNTIL I HURT UNTIL I BLEED UNTIL I SCREAM LIKE TWENTY THOUSAND BURNING **CITIES!**

AAWOO-OOOOOO-OOOo...

ALL RIGHT.

I JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. THE THING IN NEW YORK HAS UNDERGONE A MASSIVE POWER-SURGE OF SOME KIND.

IT COULD SWALLOW THE COUNTRY.

CAPTAIN BURNSIDE, INSERT YOUR KEY, PLEASE.

S-SIR, I...

SIR, NO SIR, I WON'T DO THAT, SIR.

GODDAMMIT, BURNSIDE! WHAT THE HELL'S ***WRONG*** WITH YOU? WE HAVE TO REMOVE ***MANHATTAN*** TO SAVE ***AMERICA!***

CAPTAIN CHAMBERS, I'M ORDERING YOU TO SHOOT CAPTAIN BURNSIDE.

SIR, F$%& YOU, SIR. I AIN'T DOING THAT. NO WAY.

CAPTAIN, THAT'S A DIRECT ***ORDER!***

SHOOT BURNSIDE AND KEY THE ***LAUNCH CODES*** BEFORE WASHINGTON AND EVERYWHERE ELSE GOES THE SAME...

...WAY AS...

YEAH. WAIT A MINUTE, LET ME OPEN THIS VAULT, THEN WE'LL ASK A PENTAGON STAFFER IF...

OH, JESUS. OH, LORD...

DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN, WHAT WAS I *THINKING* OF?

I MEAN, MY *FATHER!* MY OLD MAN, HE *LIVES* IN NEW YORK...

BUT... THIS *IS* NEW YORK, RIGHT? O-OR IS THIS WASHINGTON?

I MEAN, I *KNOW* WE'RE IN A BUNKER UNDER THE PENTAGON, BUT...

...BUT DAMN, THIS *FEELS* LIKE NEW YORK.

OH, IT'S YOU. COME ON IN.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO WATCH THE SUN RISE.

WHAT? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

FAUST, WHERE'S *PROMETHEA?* W-WE'RE TAKING HER *IN.*

GO RIGHT AHEAD EVERYONE'S THROUGH HERE.

HELLO

YOU'RE THAT AGENT WHO CAME LOOKING FOR SOPHIE THAT ONE TIME. YOU HAD A FUNNY NAME

DEBB.E REYNOLDS?

LUCILLE BALL

MS. BANGS, THIS IS A NATIONAL *EMERGENCY.* WE'RE NOT £%&ING AROUND HERE

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE YOUR DAUGHTER IS, AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME *NOW!*

HEY! HEY, I DON'T CARE YOU'RE A COP OR WHAT...

J-JUAN?

YOU WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO MY OLD *LADY,* OKAY?

OH GOD OH GOD, YOU'RE *HERE.* YOU'RE *BACK.*

IT'S JUDGMENT DAY, BABY. ALL THE DEAD COMIN' HOME.

I MEAN, MANNER O' SPEAKIN', IT AIN'T LIKE NONE OF US WAS EVER *AWAY,* YOU KNOW?

OH BABY. OH, BABY, I'M SO HAPPY, I MISSED YOU SO MUCH...

ME TOO. I LOVE YOU FOREVER, WOMAN.

AS FOR YOU TWO, YOU WANNA SEE OUR LITTLE GIRL, SHE'S THROUGH THE DOOR, THERE

SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU. SHE'S WAITING FOR EVERYBODY

GO ON, MAN DON'T LOOK SO SCARED

SHE KNOWS YOU'RE HERE TO WASTE HER, AND SHE'S COOL WITH THAT. SHE'S A GOOD KID, YOU KNOW?

AND NOW IS A GOOD *TIME.*

I MEAN, HOW'S IT GONNA GET ANY BETTER?

EVERYBODY DEAD'S COMIN' BACK, SUN'S COMIN' UP SOON, SO WE CAN FINALLY SEE WHAT WE'RE *DOIN'.*

TELL YOU, WE ALL GONNA WANT TO BE HERE FOR THAT, WHEN ALL THE LIGHTS GO ON...

...EVERYWHERE

AH. IT'S YOU.

GOOD.

I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO TALK TO YOU.

TO *ALL* OF YOU.

HUH?
WHAT WAS...?

THE SUN IS RISING.
KNOW YOURSELF.

GREAT CHUKULTEH...
AAAA!

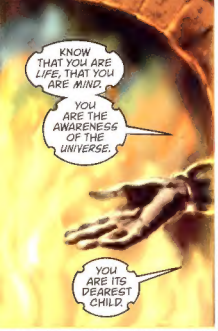
WE ARE ALL SPARKS OF ITS ECSTATIC, BLAZING CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND WE ARE RARE.
AND WE ARE PRECIOUS.
AND WE ARE ALL ONE THING.

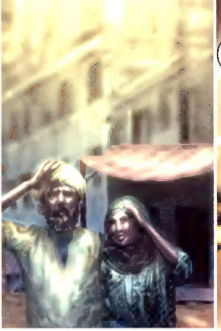
...AND ALL CONCEIVABLE PLACES ARE IN TRUTH ONE PLACE...

UM... BUT...

EVERYTHING IS VERY CLOSE NOW.
EVERYONE IS GATHERED IN TOGETHER.

OH, IT'S YOU. COME ON IN.
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO WATCH THE SUN RISE.
GO RIGHT AHEAD. EVERYONE'S THROUGH HERE.

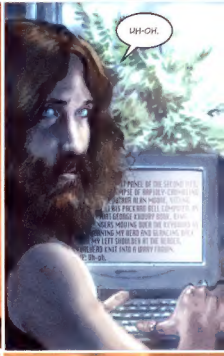

KNOW THAT YOU ARE LIFE, THAT YOU ARE MIND.
YOU ARE THE AWARENESS OF THE UNIVERSE.
YOU ARE ITS DEAREST CHILD.



SPACE AND TIME EXPLODED INTO BEING. EVERY ATOM. EVERY MOMENT. ALL. AT ONCE.
THE EXPLOSION'S STILL GOING ON.
THIS IS ALL PART OF IT.

WHAT?
OH, #@%*...

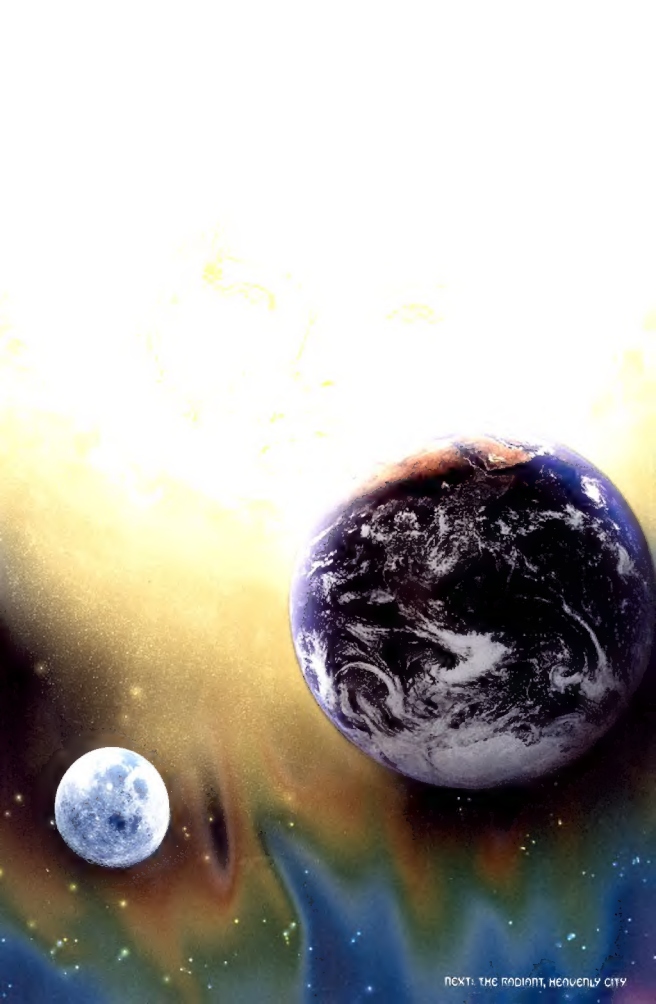
...AND ALL OF TIME IS BUT A SINGLE, ENDLESS MOMENT.
LET US DRAW IN BY THE FIRE, AND BE GLAD.
EVERY ONE OF US.


UH-OH.

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED.
OUR LIVES ARE ALL A STORY WE'VE BEEN TELLING TO OURSELVES, WHILING AWAY THE LONG, AFRAID NIGHT OF OUR HUMAN IGNORANCE.

OH GOD. WHAT'S *THAT?* THAT'S NOT THE SUN. IT'S TOO BIG AND IT'S GOT...
OH.

BUT NOW WE ARE GROWN.
NOW THE NIGHT IS OVER.
NOW THERE IS LIGHT.


NEXT: THE RADIANT, HEAVENLY CITY